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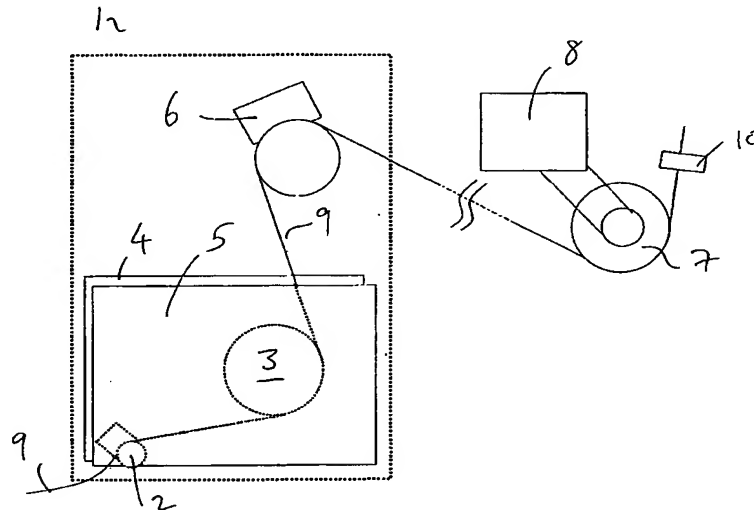
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **DEVICE AND METHOD TO FEED AND ALIGN A WEB WITH INCREASED WEB STABILITY FOR PRINTING**



(57) Abstract: A web alignment method and apparatus for a printing system or other system is described, the system comprising a friction drive. The alignment device provides one or more of the following: a) a stable medium path with reduced web-walk, b) an alignment system that is not sensitive to the mechanical alignment of an upstream device such as a roll unwinder, c) an alignment system having a lower complexity and lower cost than active controlled systems, and d) an alignment system that is compatible with a wide range of media, ranging from lightweight papers (for example 60gsm) to heavyweight stock (such as 300 gsm) including high weight high gloss coated grades. The alignment device comprises means for supporting the web in an arcuate form between adjustable side guides.

WO 2005/051818 A2



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